

What is claimed is:

1. A cashless electronic monetary transaction method, comprising:

transferring to an electronic medium through a transfer terminal
monetary information from a financial institution representing an
5 amount of money available to a holder of the medium and requested by
the holder; and

transferring an amount of money responsive to the amount
transferred to the medium to a non-settled account of the financial
institution.

10 2. A cashless electronic monetary transaction method, comprising:

transferring to an electronic medium through a transfer terminal
monetary information from a financial institution representing an
amount of money available to a holder of the medium and requested by
the holder;

15 transferring an amount of money responsive to the amount
transferred to the medium to a non-settled account of the financial
institution;

performing a monetary transaction with the holder using the
medium through a point of sale terminal of a seller and changing the
20 monetary information on the medium responsive to the monetary
transaction without identifying the holder; and

posting the change to the monetary information to a sales
tallying file in the point of sale terminal and to the non-settled
account of the financial institution responsive to the changing.

25 3. The method according to claim 2, wherein the point of sale
terminal receives from the medium bank information of the monetary
information.

4. The method of claim 2, wherein the sales tallying file identifies
financial institutions and stores monetary information corresponding
30 to each financial institution.

5. A cashless electronic monetary transaction method, comprising:

transferring to an electronic medium through a transfer terminal monetary information from a first financial institution representing an amount of money available to a holder of the medium and requested by the holder;

5 transferring an amount of money responsive to the amount transferred to the medium to a non-settled account of the first financial institution;

performing a monetary transaction with the holder through a point of sale terminal of a seller;

10 changing the monetary information on the medium responsive to the monetary transaction without identifying the holder;

posting the change to the monetary information to a sales tallying file in the point of sale terminal identifying financial institutions and storing monetary information corresponding to each financial institution; and

15 settling an account of the seller by transferring to the account of the seller from the non-settled account of the first financial institution an amount of money responsive to the monetary information stored in the sales tallying file corresponding to the first financial institution.

20 6. The method according to claim 5, wherein the settling is performed by a central clearing device coupled to financial institutions.

25 7. The method according to claim 5, wherein the settling further comprises exchanging billing information with a second financial institution corresponding to the monetary information stored in the sales tallying file.